

**ABSTRACT**

This invention describes a process for preparing hydroxyazapirones of Formula I from azapirones of Formula II. The process comprises treating azapirones with a strong base, monitoring enolate formation of the azapirone by IR spectroscopy, and  
5 reacting the enolate with a source of molecular oxygen in the presence of a reductant. The process is suitable for large scale production of hydroxyazapirones.